

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 0749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: INITIAL COMMENT ON PRELIMINARY PHASE II REPORT

REF: NPG/WP(74)9, DATED 4 DECEMBER 1974

MISSION PROVIDES BELOW TEXT OF LETTER TO SYG LUNS FROM
AMBASSADOR HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) CONCERNING NETHERLANDS
COMMENTS ON PRELIMINARY PHASE II REPORT, AND TEXT OF COMMENTS.

BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER:

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE VIEWS AS REQUESTED ON THE
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PHASE II OF THE WORK PROGRAMME
ON FOLLOW-ON TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY MY
APPRECIATION FOR THE STUDY TEAM'S EFFORT IN PREPARING
THIS REPORT.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF MY LETTER TO MY COLLEAGUES
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IN THE NPG.

END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT OF COMMENTS: WE SUGGEST THAT, FOR CLEARNESS' SAKE THE SUMMARY AND THE CONCLUSION SHOULD BE HANDLED IN TWO SEPARATE CHAPTERS. THE CHAPTER "CONCLUSIONS" SHOULD THEN BE PRECEDED BY TWO PARAGRAPHS.

THE FIRST PARAGRAPH SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE PHASE II-STUDY TEAM HAD TO BASE ITS CONCLUSIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THE PHASE I-STUDIES. THESE CONCLUSIONS HAVE A LIMITED MEANING IN SO FAR THAT THE PHASE I-STUDIES:

- FOCUS ON THE MILITARY ASPECTS, WHILE LITTLE OF NO EXAMINATION WAS MADE OF THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE TAKEN PLACE AT THE SAME TIME;
- STARTED ALL FROM THE OPENING SCENARIOS IN WHICH NATO WAS IN A SEVERE AND CRITICAL MILITARY DISADVANTAGE;
- MADE THEIR EXAMINATION FOR A LIMITED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA;
- ASSUMED THAT THE WP HAD A CONVENTIONAL SUPERIORITY, WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO THE ENGAGEMENT, AND WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF HIS OWN.

THE SECOND PARAGRAPH SHOULD INDICATE THAT:

- THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS COULD BE MILITARY USEFUL IN DELAYING THE PROGRESS OF AN ATTACK (PARA 72 2ND SENTENCE);
- WHERE THE USE OF INSUFFICIENT CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND INITIAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS DID NOT ACHEVE NATO'S ULTIMATE POLITICAL OBJECTIVE, FOLLOW-ON USE ON A LARGER SCALE MIGHT SO REINFORCE THE POLITICAL SIGNAL AS TO ACHIEVE THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE (PARA 72, THIRD SENTENCE).

FINALLY WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE OBERVATION THAT NO DIRECT ANSWER HAS

BEEN GIVEN TO THE QUESTIONS PUT AT THE OUTSET OF THE REPORT. WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL WHEN THE PHASE II STUDY TEAM IN REWRITING ITS REPORT WOULD MAKE SUCH AN ATTEMPT OR WOULD CLARIFY WHY NO REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE TO THE STUDY OBJECTIVES AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 4.

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END TEXT.
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